WASHINGTON.

Mr. Tilden's Testimony Before the Potter Committee.

HOSTILE CRITICISM OF DEMOCRATS

The Two Republics of the American Continent.

MOVEMENT FOR A NEW TREATY.

Personal Taxes in the District of Columbia.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

MR. TILDEN BEFORE THE POTTER SUB-COMMIT-TEE-CRITICISMS AMONG PROMINENT DEM-OCRATS ON HIS ATTITUDE.

The statement of Mr. Tilden before the Potter Com mittee remains a matter of interest and discussion among democrats here, many of whom are sore at the revelations made by Pelton and Smith Weed, and gravely dissatisfied with the position in which Mr. Tilden has left himself.

It is universally granted that technically and legally Mr. Tilden established, beyond refutation, that he knew nothing of the cipher despatches and was not in any way concerned in or consenting to any attempts to obtain by purchase or bribery the electoral votes of any States. But among a number of democrats of consider-able eminence the result of the examination able eminence the result of the examination leaves a painful impression that he is a man extremely and culpably tolerant of a grossly immoral transaction in a person very near to him, having very confidential relations with him, and whom he detected in an attempt to commit, for Mr. Tilden's

benefit, a grave criminal action.

"Pelton," it is said by these democrats, "confesses that he received from Smith Weed an offer to sum; that he accepted the proposition and went to Baltimore to meet Weed and an agent of the Returning Board to arrange the purchase, and that as he was setting off for Baltimore he saw Mr. Cooper and told him where he was going and that he might need some money. Mr. Cooper testifies that the next day Pel-ton telegraphed him for \$60,000 or \$80,000, he is not certain which s m, and that he went at once to Mr. riiden and told him all about it. Mr. Tilden, in his turn, testifies that on hearing what Mr. Cooper told him, he immediately said no such offer should be entertained, and that no negotiation of that nature should be tolerated; that not a cent should be furnished for any such purpose; that Mr. Pelton should be immediately telegraphed for to return to New York, Mr. Tilden does not attempt to con-ceal that he understood accurately and eu-tirely the nature and object of the transaction in which Pelton was engaged and in which he evi-dently expected Cooper to assist him. He is a clear-headed man; what he saw was that Pelton, his secretary, his relative and confidential agent, had been detected in an act of bribery—an act scandalous, immoral and crimina! No account old Mr. Cooper tell him of it than Mr. Tilden forbade it and summoned Pelton back to New York, as was right. On his return Mr. Tilden says he received him with an ontuburst of impatience and displeasure, but that was all. Pelton testifies that his relations with Mr. Tilden were not materially altered by the transaction. Tilden himself says that he did not remove Pelton from the confidential and influential position he had occupied, and Pelton adds that after his return he vas in such position and undertook to purchase the

"Now," say these democrats, "was not Mr. Tilden himself gravely lacking in character, in that nice sense of honor, in the keen appreciation of a disgraceful act which a man in his position ought cer-tainly to have? Ought he not to have at once and carefully excluded Pelion from all further share in or knowledge of political transactions? Ought he not to have given notice to all his political friends positions as before, but all of us were here during the winter of 1876-77 remember very well that during the last month openly declared agent of Mr. Tilden, occupied an expensive suit of rooms at a hotel, had with him a corps of assistants, and was in constant and close communication with Mr. Tilden, and communicated party here secretly, urging resistance to the verdice of the Electoral Commission, arranging political alliances, msking himself a nuisance undoubtedly to Mr. Hewitt and other responsible men in authority, but a nuisance who had Mr. Tilden at his back, and who represented in an especial manner and with especial authority Mr. Tilden's wishes. Now, knowing that Pelton had been fortunately frustrated at a critical moment in an attempt at bribery which no honorable man in the party lowed him to come down here as his ambassador? Was he not bound if Pelton did come to inform us privately that he was not fit to be trusted with even the pettiest affair, and that we must guard ourselves against him as against a mad dog? But so far from taking this just and honorable course Mr. Tilden would find it difficult to deny that in some matters which he thought of great importance he took Pelton's advice rather than that of prominent and honorable men, and bade others, his supporters, to take (t-advice which was of course as foelish as the offer to buy a Returning Board was wrong and scandal

nireles of Mr. Tilden, and it is said with impatience and sometimes resentment.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1879.

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES-NECESSITY FOR A MORE EXTENDED TREATY—REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. The necessity of better treaty relations between the United States and Mexican governments, and the revival of popular interest in the subject by the efforts of merchants and manufacturers of this country to enlarge the commercial intercourse of the two countries, have prompted the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to take under special considera-tion the joint resolution offered in the House by Mr. Casey Young, of Tennessee, providing for a new treaty and the abrogation of existing conventions regulating the relations of the two govern ments with each other. As a result the committee has agreed upon a report favoring a vigorous policy for the protection of citizens of the United States in Mexico and on the Mexican border and recommend ing, as essential to the continuance of amicable rela tions, the unconditional abolition of what is called the Free Zone bordering the Rio Grande on its south side and of the forced loan system now provalent in so far as it affects citizens of this The entire subject had been referred by Chairman Swant to Mr. Wilson, of West Virginia, who, as a member of the committee, had given much attention and study to the Mexican question, and he

adoption of the amended form of the resolution, as the sentiment of the House is quite unanimous in will make a speech on the subject. The report and

prepared the report, which has been sanctioned by mmittee, reported to the House and ordered

resolution are as follows:-

of Congress, as will be seen by reference to House of Representatives report No. 701. Forty-fifth Congress, second session.

The Republic of Mexico and the United States are divided by almost imaginary lines. These lines of toundary extend over many miles: each is rich in products needed by the other; both have republican forms of government. Intimate commercial relations necessarily bring about intimate social relations, and the mixing and intercourse of the peoples of the two governments in trade and otherwise will add to the bond of friendship and amity which should exist between the two republics. A commercial convention, or meeting, has but recently been held in the city of Mexico, attenued by a great many American merchants and men of business, and every evidence was given by the Mexican government and people of their friendship for our people and government and their desire to extend their trade with us.

Your committee refer to the evidence of Major B. F. Ely and General Marcus J. Wright, accompanying this report and referred to as a part thereof. This evidence contains information, statistical and otherwise, which will be of interest and value.

In the opinion of your committee, a treaty should be made. They, therefore, report back said resolution, with the recommendation that it do not pass; but as a sunstitute therefor they report the following preambles and resolution, which they recommend shall pass:—

Whereas it is the desire and wish of the government and people of the United States of America to maintain the most amicable relations with the Republic of Mexico, as exemplified and set forth by the twenty-first and twenty-second articles of the Treaty of Guadaloupe of February 22, 1848, and readirmed by article 7 of the Guadsden treaty of December 13, 1883;

And whereas it is believed to be manifestly the interest of the recomments of the recomments of the recomments of beth governments to extend

products, and to factifiate and foster the most liberal commercial relations between the people of the two governments;

And whereas many citizens of the United States have invested their capital, and others are desirons of investing, in the republic of Mexico, in mining, the construction of railroads, banking, farming, stock raising and merchandising and in other enterprises. And in this view, with the purpose of increasing said investments which are believed to be mutually beneficial to the people of both governments, a treaty is deemed necessary.

And whereas the territory known as the "Free Zone," on the Mexican border, has been the source from which violations of treaty stipulations, avoidance of tariff duties and other irregularities have proceeded, and to maintain proper commercial and friendly relations between the two countries this "Free Zone," or "zona fibre," shall be abolished;
And whereas the present extradition treaty between the two countries has proved inadequate for the purposes for which it was made and entered into, and with a view to the prompt rendition and punishment of fugitives from justice, further and more stringent treaty stipulations in this regard are necessary;
And whereas experience has demonstrated that

PERSONAL TAX IN THE DISTR'CT OF COLUMBIA-

Columbia, to whom the Commissioners yesterday re-ferred the letter from General B. F. Butler declining to pay his personal tax, has prepared an opinion on the subject which he will to-morrow submit to the

the subject which he will to-morrow submit to the District Commissioners. In this opinion he says:—
This has reference to that large and important class of property owners—Senators, members of the Cabinet and of the House, and others filling important public places, and an increasing number of wealthy persons sojourners at the capital. The law is furnished by Congress; its construction is left to the District Commissioners. If misapprehended it may be revised by the law officers of the United States or determined by a declaratory act or resolution of the two houses. For the time being nearly the whole persons of all the great departments of the government are the subjects of the District of Columbia and such authority as here exists, and share largely its advantages and protection, its digeomiors and inconveniences. It is within the ment are the subjects of the District of Columbia and such authority as here exists, and share largely its advantages and protection, its discomposition of the province of the two houses to define by law the exact relations of the persona of their members, and of all functionaries to municipal authorities as they are to be recognized and governed as all other sojourners not of the foreign legations.

The act of March 3, 1877, and the amendatory act of April 3, 1878, form the present Tax law of the District. This provides for the levying upon all real and personal property \$1.50 for each \$1.60 of assessed value. It declares that all the property, real and personal, in the District, not owned by the United States, shall be taxed, no matter who the owners are or where they reside. Its situation alone determines its lability. As a general rule personal property is taxable at the house of the owner, under the principle that its possession follows his person. If, however, the property is permanently out of the state of his domicile it cannot be taxed there. All personal property can be taxed in the State or jurisdiction where it is. A man who here, though the owner may have his residence elsewhere. If his furniture comes and goes with him the rule would be otherwise. Moneys, securities and credits, I think, can only be taxed in the home State, and clearly no property should be taxed in two States for the same time. By the act of April 3, 1873, the provisions are that there shall be levied upon all personal property within the District not taxed elsewhere but owned by persons temporarily residing in the District a tax of \$1.50 on each \$100 of the assessed value thereof. This I contend is the text of the present law on which reets the subject matter. It is the object of all generalize laws to reach as widely as they may, compelling all owners of property to contribute to the burdens of government. My construction is that it is not the purpose of the law to subject property to taxation here upon which the owners pay a t

fact that other Congressmen have made similar re-rusal to the demands made on them by the Commis-sioners, and sarcastically says these Congressmen who make the law have it in their power to change it to suit themselves. They are the law makers and

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1879. ARMY REORGANIZATION-AMENDMENT OF SENA-TOR SPENCER TO THE ARMY APPROPRIATION

Senator Spencer's amendment to the Army Appropriation bill offered to-day is in the nature of a substitute for the reorganization sections, 4 to 46 inclusive. It provides that there shall be no more prome tions nor appointments to any grade except as here-after provided, until the number of officers shall be reduced to the following number:—General officers three major generals and six brigadier generals.

three major generals and six brigadier generals.

One adjutant general, with the rank of briadier general; two colonels, three lieutenant colonels and eight majors.

One inspector general, with the rank of brigadier general; one colonel and two majors.

One judge advocate general, with the rank of brigadier general, and three majors.

One quartermaster general, with the rank of brigadier general; three colonels, six lieutenant colonels, twelve majors and twenty-four captains.

One commissary general of subsistence, with the rank of brigadier general; two colonels, three lieutenant colonels, six majors and the captains.

One paymaster general, with the rank of brigadier general; two colonels, three lieutenant colonels, six majors and the captains.

One paymaster general, with the rank of brigadler general; two colonels, two lieutenant colonels and torty majors.

One chief of ordnance, with the rank of brigadler general; two colonels, four lieutenant colonels, eight majors, sixteen captains and twelve first lieutenants. One chief of engineers, with the rank of brigadler general; five colonels, nine lieutenant colonels, eighteen majors, twenty-four captains, twenty first lieutenants and ten second lieutenants.

One surgeon general, with the rank of brigadler general; one assistant surgeon general, with the rank of colonel; there surgeons, with the rank of clonel; the surgeons, with the rank of lieutenant colonel; seven surgeons, with the rank of lieutenant colonel; seven surgeons, with the rank of lieutenant colonel; forty surgeons, with the rank of major; sty-five assistant surgeons with the rank of captain; torty-eight assistant surgeons

with the rank of first lieutenant, and the offices of medical purveyor and assistant medical purveyor shall cease with casualty of present incumbents, and thereafter there shall be an office of medical purveyor, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The number of officers in each regiment of artillers reavalry and infantry shall be the same respectively as now provided by law, but the number of regiments shall be reduced—the artillery to tour, cavalry to eight and infantry to twenty, and the Socretary of War shall from time to time, and in such manner as may be for the best interest of the same, discontinue such regiments as may be rendered supernumerary by this act, and shall transfer the officers of supernumerary regiments to other regiments of the same arm as rapidly as vacancies in the retained regiments occur; and he may discharge or transfer the culisted men of the supernumerary regiments.

The law limiting the number that may be on the retired list is repealed, and provision is made for extending its becefuts to captains and lieutenants who have served twenty years in the army on their own application, and size requiring the President to place thereon all officers who, before January 1, 1880, shall be sixty-two years of age, or shall have served as officers for forty years. It further provides for a retiring board to examine officers ordered before it. Any officer who, before January 1, 1880, shall tender his resignation, if the President approve and accept the same, shall be entitled to receive three years full pay, but no payment shall be made until his accounts are settled.

Whenever the number of officers if any staff department is certified by the chief thereof to be insufficient the President may detail officers of the line for such duty.

THE POTTER COMMITTEE.

At an informal meeting of the Potter Investigating

THE POTTER COMMITTEE. At an informal meeting of the Potter Investigating Committee to-day, at the instance of the republican members, it was agreed to issue subposuas for Messrs. Ceyle, of New York; Woolley, of Cincinnati; Solomon, of South Carolina, and Dunn, of Florida. No other business of a public character was transacted. Although a meeting of the committee is called for to-morrow, it is not probable that anything interesting will occur.

it is not probable that anything interesting will occur until Monday next, at which time the shove named

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES. The Senate resolution providing for an investigation of the Cheyenne massacre was to-day reported back to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and on mo-tion of the Chairman (Mr. Allison), on behalf of the committee, a resolution was agreed to providing for the appointment of a select committee of five Sens-tors to sit during the recess and inquire into all the tors to sit during the recess and inquire that the circumstances connected with the escape of these Indians and their subsequent slaughter, the committee to have power to examine witnesses, &c.

The Senate to-day resumed consideration of the

bill to provide additional accommodations for the library of Congress, the pending question being on the motion of Mr. Conkling to recommit the bill to the Library Committee, with instructions to report a the Library Committee, with instructions to report a bill providing for a commission of skilled persons to examine and report touching the different sites for the library, and especially touching practical changes which may be made in the Capitol building adapted to the accommodation of the two houses of Congress and the library. An amendment of Mr. Edmunds to the motion of Mr. Conkling was agreed to, so as to provide that the bill be recommitted to the Library Committee with instructions to report a bill providing for a commission of skilled persons to examine and report to Congress at its next session touching practical changes which may be made in the Capitol building adapted to the accommodation of the two houses of Congress and the library, and the original resolution of Mr. Conkling, as thus amended, was agreed to.

amended, was agreed to.
On motion of Senator Sargent, of California, the On notion to construct the immigration of Chinese into the United States was taken up so it should be the unfinished business to-morrow.

be the unfinished business to-morrow.

The session of the House to-day was devoted to the consideration or the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Appropriation bill in Committee of the Whole. Among the amendments adopted was one submitted by Mr. Hewitt, of Alabama, requiring the marshal or officer making arrest of any person charged with violation of the Revenue law to carry his prisoners before the nearest official who is authorized to take

was cited where a marshal had brought's prisoner 125 miles, although there was a commissioner near where the arrest was made. Mr. Herbert, of Alabama, where the arrest was made. Mr. Heroert, of Alabama, also cited a cased where a Commissioner sat all last winter in the city of Montgomery, issuing warrants for the arrest of persons all over the State, which persons were carried hundreds of miles to Montgomery at great expense to the government and to their great inconvenience and injury. FIVE-TWENTIES-EIGHTY-EIGHTH CALL FOR RE-

DEMPTION. The Secretary of the Treasury this afternoon issued the eighty-eighth call for the redemption of five-twenty bonds of 1865, consols of 1867. The call and \$10,000,000 are registered bonds. The principal and interest will be paid at the Treasury on and after the 12th day of May next, and the interest will cease on that day. Following are descriptions of the

bonds:—
Coupon bonds, dated July 1, 1867:—
\$50-No. 80,001 to No. 85,000, both inclusive,
\$100-No. 130,001 to No. 146,000, both inclusive,
\$500-No. 81,001 to No. 87,000, both inclusive,
\$1,000-No. 129,001 to No. 144,000, both inclusive,
\$1,000-No. 129,001 to No. 144,000, both inclusive,
Total coupon, \$10,000,000.

Registered bonds, "redeemable at the pleasure of
the United States arter the lat day of July, 1872":—
\$50-No. 3,101 to No. 3,173, both inclusive,
\$100-No. 12,161 to No. 22,309, both inclusive,
\$500-No. 11,161 to No. 11,300, both inclusive,
\$1,000-No. 12,151 to No. 13,400, both inclusive,
\$1,000-No. 12,151 to No. 13,400, both inclusive,
\$10,000-No. 21,301 to No. 35,000, both inclusive,
\$10,000-No. 21,301 to No. 35,000, both inclusive,
Total registered, \$10,000,000. Aggregate, \$20,000,000.

THE BLAINE INVESTIGATION.

DEFEATED CANDIDATE'S STORY OF THE RE-CENT CAMPAIGN IN MISSISSIPPI - FEELING AMONG THE PEOPLE-HORROR OF COLORED RULE-CONDUCT OF BULLDOZERS AC THE HUSTINGS. WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1879.

The Teller Committee to-day examined General Reuben E. Davis, of Mississippi. There were among

the auditors Senator Bruce and Representatives Mul-drow, Hooker, Chaimers and Money, of that State. General Davis testified that provious to secession he was a member of the House of Representatives; had been connected with the Judiciary of Mississippi and held office under the Confederate States; he was a candidate for Congress in the late election from the First district. He narrated the history of the canvass; there were in that district six "white" and five "colored" counties; he travelled with Mr. Muldrow and they made speeches together; Mr. Muldrow was his political opponent; he mentioned several places where he was not allowed to speak without interruption, and said that he had been informed privately of threats to prevent him from being heard, although Mr. Muldrow was heard without any interruption whatever; the idea prevailed, it was said, that he was endeavor. ing to reorganize the negroes in opposition to the democrats; after the election he heard that he had been hanged in effigy and then burned; he was a greenback candidate, having been nominated by that party in opposition to his own wishes, and was voted for by the colored people, who understood their interests on that question.

The witness spoke of the irregularities in the vote. He was at first informed that he had been elected, but was afterward told that Mr. Muldrow was suc

but was afterward told that Mr. Muldrow was suc-cessful.

Sanator Garland, of the committee, asked the wit-ness whether he did not once make a speech in Con-gress about hanging Northern men. The witness replied that he did make a speech in December, 1859; it was during the consideration of an election case. In that speech he arraigned the republicans as rebels, and said if Mr. Seward would come South and utter such sentiments as he entertained and had frequently ex-pressed he (the witness) thought the people would hang him before he returned to the North; he was brought here as a witness without his consent, but he would state the truth in response to every ques-tion propounded.

brought here.

brought is the truth in response to every question propounded.

Senator Garistid asked him whether he was a republican new but not a radical. The witness replied:—"I am a native born democrat; I hold to the doctrine of the greatest good to the greatest number, and wherever this leads I will go; I was kicked out or the democratic party when a boy in 1835; I have since been kicked out on the currency question, and I am now out of the party by force."

ABOUT RADICALS.

Senator Garlsnd called the attention of the witness to his testimony before the Boutwell Committee in 1876. The witness said he indorsed every word then uttered by him. He had said that the radicals were buildozers and that they operated on negroes by superstition, threatening to put anakes and lizards

children a pension. The people can say. Your laws we defy and scorn, and yet you compel men to testify on subjects which may subject them to personal violence."

THE CAMPAION IN MISSISSIPPI.

William H. Vasser, of Mississippi, testified that he was a native of Virginia, but had lived at Aberdeen since 1844; originally he was baptized in the old whig party, and since the war he was elected on the Alcorn ticket State Treasurer; in the late election he supported the greenback ticket. He gave a running narrative of events in the campagin, stating that at Okalona the political meeting was very boisterous; two-thirds of the crowd seemed to be drunk; Mr. Muldrow was quietly listened to, but Mr. Pavis was prevented from speaking; while he was at West Point he was called upon for a talk; he was charged with making a radical speech; he had put his speech in print; a crowd came in, and one of the persons comprising it demanded what he was reading; he telt satisfied it was a buildoxing crowd; a great many white people supported Mr. Davis; the greenback clubs were generally organized by persons living in the country.

Senator Cameron, of Wisconsin—What do you call a radical speech? A. What you would call a republican speech they would call a radical and insurrectionary one; everything is called radical in Mississippi that is not democratic; a man who makes such a speech is considered a pest, and if the speaker is a man of ability he is considered a dangerous pest; a man of ability he is considered a dangerous pest; a man of ability he is considered a dangerous pest; a man of a democrat.

Senator Kirkwood—Is it the habit of buildozers to go in a crowd? A. Yes; but you will find in Mississippi middle agod men and men advanced in life moderate and respectable to all citizens; the confusion and boisterous and illegal conduct are confused to younger men, the politics of Mississippi being largely governed by young men.

Senator Kirkwood—Is suppose that if white men were to advise colored men to stand up for their rights it would

publican hands. The people have a great horror of being ruled by colored people.

Sonator Teller—Suppose the colored people are in the majority—
Witness—I have no doubt they are.

Sonator Teller (continuing his question)—Would not the white people submit? A. They did for several years; they would resort to every expedient to prevent such a result and to antagonize the blacks.

Senator Teller—Is there any objection to Northern men coming into the State? A. They look on it as an intrusion; I think the people have been demoralized by the war.

General Condition in Mississippi.

In turther response to questions the witness said he had heard of no convictions in the Chisholm murder case; that it is the determination of the white people to keep control of affairs in Mississippi; that the colored vote must be suppressed inless it be cast for the democracy; that the prejudices engendered by the war have not subsided on the part of the white people. The witness further said that there was an effort in Mississippi to divide the democratic party, and that he would use his influence to induce the colored men to yote his way.

Sonator Cameron—Did you ever know a political offence punished in your State? A. I cannot say: it is a difficult matter to get men to go before a grand jury.

Senator Kirkwoou—What protection is there for negroes who yote your way? A. The protection given by white men; a colored man will vote for any man in opposition to the democratic party if he can be protected.

Senator Cameron—It has been claimed that the colored vote was divided between the republicans and the democratis? A. My observation does not lead me to that conclusion.

The committee theu adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

VIOLATIONS OF ELECTION LAWS.

In the United States Circuit Court, Judge Bond presiding, in the case of William Rodenhigh, indicted timidating voters at the late Congressional election, the jury rendered a verdict of guilty. He was sencenced to pay a fine of \$5 and costs and to imprisonment for sixty days.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 12, 1879.

In the United States Circuit Court to-day, in the In the United States Circuit Court to-day, in the case of Adolphus Gitman, on trial for violation of election laws in forcibly ejecting a deputy United States marshal from the polling room in the Fifth ward of Petersburg, which was continued from yesterday, Judge Hughes made a ruling to the effect that deputy marshals of elections have no right in such room during the progress of voting unless their presence is needed to quell actual disturbance, or if a supervisor be in actual need of protection, or if fraud be attempted. The evidence not being of a character to sustain such a charge, the District Attorney entered a notle pracquit and the prisoner was discharged.

The evidence in the case of Alexander Vaughan, a judge of elections in Petersburg, charged with "ballot-box stuffing," was heard and the case continued until to-morrow.

The cases, of Parham and Oliver, judges of election in the same city, were continued till the next term of Court.

LOUISIANA REPUBLICANS.

NEW OILLEANS, Feb. 12, 1879. The Louisiana republicans organized to-day for The Louisians republicans organized to-day for the Constitutional Convention campaign, Warmoth, with Dumont, in command; Jack Wharton in the First, Stamps in the Second, Marks in the Third, Leonard in the Fosirth, McMillan in the Fifth and Anderson in the Sixth Congressional districts, with Messrs. Badger, Lewis and Ladd to constitute a cam-paign committee. They premise vigorous work.

VIRGINIA'S DEBT.

A NEW PROPOSITION FROM THE BONDHOLDERS. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

RICHMOND, Feb. 12, 1879. • RICHMOND, Feb. 12, 1879. The Joint Finance Committee of the House and The Joint Finance Committee of the House and Senate held a session at the Euchange Hotel this evening, at which an amended proposition for the settlement of the debt question was submitted by representatives of the American Bond Association, of London, Mr. Bourerie, president, and the Funding Association of the United Stafes, Mr. H. McCulloch, president. This proposition is similar to that recently made, except that, in accordance with a request of a number of debt paying members of the General Associations of the term at three per cent interest has been extended from five to ten years.

As it now stands the two associations of London and New York agree to fund the entire debt of V.r. gins, both consol and pecler bonds, in fiew bonds running forty years at the following rates of interest:—Three per cent for ten years.

The joint committee by a very decisive vote agreed to report a bill embodying this proposition to their respective houses, to-morrow if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as practicable. It is the opinion of some leading debt payers that such a bill may pass during the present session, with some sight modifications, but the indications are that it will may pass during the present session, with some sight modifications, but the indications are that it will meet with strenuous opposition from the extreme readjusters in the General Assembly. The committee have already agreed to ask the funding associations to except from the operation of tax receivable coupons ten cents on \$100 for the support of the public schools.

TENNESSEE'S DERT. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

Nashville, Feb. 12, 1879.
The proposition from the holders of State bonds The proposition from the holders of State bonds brought by General Roger A. Pryor to the Legislature, offering to compromise Tennessee's \$25,000,000 debt at sixty cents on the dollar in bonds bearing six per cent interest or the reduction of the interest to four per cent on the total amount of the indebtedness in fity-year bonds, will be presented in the House to-morrow and be referred to the Finance Committee. While there is a manifest growth of seutiment snuong the people in favor of the settlement of the State debt, it is evident that the present Legislature has not yet fully realized its force, and will do nothing toward the salpetment of the debt during this session.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

A Suspicious Quietude About New York City Salaries.

RUMORS OF A BARGAIN.

What the New Building Bill Proposes to Do.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE REBALD.]

ALBANY, Feb. 12, 1879.

Not a single representative, political, departmental or civic, appeared before Dr. Hayes' Assembly Committee on Cities this afternoon in response to the invitation extended as to a discussion over the salary bills for New York. invitation extended as to a discussion over the salary bills for New York. Mr. Straham spoke in favor of his bill, cutting down the estimates of the different departments in 1879 some twenty per cent on the sums allowed during the present year for salaries. The gentleman undertook to prove that his bill would result in saving the city of New York over \$2,000,000 result in saving the city of New York over \$2,000,000 yearly on the salary account alone. No action was taken by the committee upon this proposition. The neglect of the New York muncipal authorities in falling to send a representative to argue in support of a feasible plan for reducing the number of sinecures and the enormous salarios paid to certain political favorites is the subject of considerable discussion here to-night. It is conceded, however, that no extended arguments are necessary in this connection. Everybody understands that if it is the will of the present Legislature to pass a bill doing away with evils of this character, a proper measure can be drafted in twenty-four hours which would accomplish so desirable an object. But the political leaders of all parties in New York, it is argued, seem to fear identification with such a movement. They know that patronage means power and emoluments know that patronage means power and emoluments and they do not particularly care to decrease it by measures that will reduce that patronage. It is vaguely hinted that a political deal is likely to be made by which a republican and democratic ring may continue, as in former years, to control the dis-pensation of the loaves and fishes in the metropolis.

COLY RUMORS PREVAILING.

A few weeks more must determine the truth of this assertion. Rumors continually float around here of men being bought, either with patrouage or by some more questionable means, to achieve cor-rupt ends as far as New York city legislation is con-cerned. The party of "high moral ideas" must hold itself responsible if those assertions can be sub-stantiated at the end of the session. They must also stantiated at the end of the session. They must also understand that their peculiar practices are much more likely to be watched at the present time than heretofore. Formerly public sensibilities were not so likely to be shocked by legislative log rolling. Such efforts can now be called by their proper names, "Bribery," "perjury" and "thioving." The out-

tion is concerned, seems to point directly at the usual system of "log rolling" so prevalent every year.

The old-new Capitol celebration, reported further on, came off to-night, and assumed the appearance of a broad farce. Everybody understood that the coremonies were arranged to order, for the purpose of keeping up the excitement about this monstrously extensive and expensive building. Lieutenant Governor Dorsheimer, as the presiding genius, came in full evening dress, after a careful rehearsal of a speech brimful of eulogy, for the great things that were to be done by the immaculate legislators under the come of the luxurious edifice, one-fifth of which has cost the people of the State \$10,000,000.

Speaker Alvord delivered an address on the great men that had done their work under old Capitol influences. Governors, Lieutenant Governors, Compriollers, Secretaries of State and even Canal Commissioners. Dix, Seymour and other distinguished Governors were mentioned, but no allusion whatever was made to the work performed by Tilden. The "Old Man Eloquent" of Onondaga was silent upon the virtues of the Gramercy Park Statesman. The "funeral ceremonies" lasted until after ten o'clock, Governor Robinshn was sensible enough to stay away.

o'clock. Governor Robinson was sensible enough to stay away.

The principal bill introduced in the Assembly today relates to the important subject of buildings in the city of New York and the laws relative thereto. This bill, which is very lengthy, proposes to amend and reduce to ohe act all statutes bearing upon such mathers hitherto passed by the Legislature. It was introduced by Mr. Strahan, and referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration. The loose manner in which many of the buildings are constructed in the metropolis and the reports current for years as to wholesale corruptions in the department having control of such matters, it is said, induced the present codification and amendments.

The opening sections relate to the foundations, walls and method of erecting all classes of buildings. These do not differ materially from the present laws. Section 16 provides that all stores or storehouses or

walls and method of erecting all classes of but These do not differ materially from the press Section 16 provides that all stores or storeho other buildings more than two stories high, of twenty-law feet in height above the curb level erected, or that may hereafter be built in Nee except dwelling houses or churches, shall hav blinds or shutters made of fireproof metal or gindow and opening above the first story; holdevards or well holes are to be protecte substantial railing and trap doors. By see no smoke pipe will be allowed in any building wooden or combustible floors, unless the pipe at least eighteen inches from floors or The same section provides further safeguards lights, location of registers and other heatin ratus. In future all exterior cornices and guall buildings must be of some fireproof mater. As to the providing of fire excepts section as follows:—

Any dwelling house now erected or that hereafte erected incre than two stories in height, occupie built to be occupied by two or more families on.

may hereatists be evected, more than three stories in height, buttle to contain the above the first atory accupied, by vision with smell fire seagues, aliarms and doors as shall be directed by the Commissioner of Buildings.

As to safety in public buildings—as hotels, churches, theatres, school houses, restaurants, railroad depots, public halls and other places used or intended to be used for purposes of public amusement or instruction—the law provides that "halls, doors, stairways, seats and aliastes shall be so arranged as to facilitate egress in cases of fire or secident and to afford the requisited and proper accommodation for public protection in such cases; and all such aliases and passageways in buildings shall be kept free from camp stools, chairs, sofas, persons standing therein and other obstructions during any performance, service, exhibition, lecture, concert, bail or any public assemblage.

The following rules are laid down for the erection of theatrus:—The building shall have at least one front on the public street, together with an open space not less than ten feet wide, for theatres accommodating not more than one thousand persons; one or more outlets on the highway toward the auditorium not less than twenty test in with; similar independent outlets to be provided toward the stage. For other theatres the width of the space and outlets as to be determined by the Commissioner of Buildings according to the number of other safeguards as to the location of store rooms, placing of fire walls between auditorium and stage, interior wall, adjouring structures, &c., are also set down in the section Tegulating construction of theatres, stage seency and decorations; and all wood work in the vicinity must be eaturated with some incombustible material or otherwise rendered safe against fire to the satisfaction of the Fire Department of New York city. The location of seats and other interior arrangements are also strictly provided for. Stairways must be constructed of fire-prot wall, adjournment of New York ci

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

PROJECT.

The great railroad fight opened in earnest this afternoon, when the bill providing for the building of a bridge over the Morris Canal at Washington Assembly. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the New Jersey Central are the contestants. The former oppose the building of the bridge and the latter support it. Mr. Ducon made a long speech in opposition to the bridge, said it would be a violation of the faith and honor said it would be a violation of the faith and honor of New Jersey to pass the bill. It was not a general, but a special one. He called attention to the act of 1867, which granted certain privileges to the Morris Canal Company at the place where the bridge was proposed to be built. This company poid to the State \$25,000 a year for these privileges. He alluded to the bankruptcy of the Central Railroad Company, who cannot pay the interest on their bonds. "Then," asked he, "how could they pay \$25,000 a year? A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." Dominie Robinson opposed the bill on the ground

A HUSBAND'S NEGLECT AND DESERTION DOES NOT DEFEAT THE WIFE'S CLAIM TO A SHARE IN HIS ESTATE.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12, 1879. Another interesting case has come before the courts, growing out of the conflicting classic of two women to be considered the legal widow of a man who died and left an catate. The property is less than \$10,000, but there are cir-cumstances in the story which the trial interest and importance. Even in the cold and un-colored language of Judge Hanna's legal opinion, giving only the essential facts, there is a pathos in

Ine rectal of the wrongs of the brest whe which can-not but appeal to all who read the story.

Judge Hanna says:—John Coates and Ellen, his wife, were married in England on September 1, 1844, and lived together until his departure for the United States, on April 19, 1847, two children having been born to them before he set out for this country Coutes left England with the knowledge and consen Coates left England with the knowledge and consent of his wife, but with the understanding and promise thet he would send for her and his children as soon as he was able to do so. In the year 1850 Coates settled in this city, and on January 2, 1851, he married Mary Aspen, by whom he had seven children, six of whom are now living. During the years 1850-31 his eldest son William was brought to this country from England by his uncle, Joseph Coates, and, in 1852, Coates consented to have his youngest son Ashton brought here, but he never sent for his wife or remitted her money for her passage, although it seems that he was possessed of sufficient means prior to his so-called marriage with Mary Aspen. From the time Coates left England, in 1847, until 1851, he sent his wife but £3 sterling for her support and maint-mance, and from the time he departed for the United States she was compelled to labor to maintain herself and children until the latter were sent for to join their inther. Coates married Mary Aspen in January, 1851, and about the same time his English wife was informed by persons who had left this city and had returned to the village in which she had lived since her husbathal had left her that he was keeping company with snother woman. She believed this report to be true, because he had not replied to her letters, and she had written many imploring him to relieve her from her destinition. She heard nothing, and went back to her mental labor.

In the course of time the neglected, poverty stricken wife was guilty of acts of infidelity, for which censure should tall lightly on her, remembering that she was embittered by her husband's neglect and that she had no husband or protector in fact. She remained in England until after the death of Coates, when her son Ashton sent her a passage ticket. She arrived here on May 4, 1878, and at once put in her eight for the which censure should the will in which he had remembered only his second wife.

The second wife's counsel contented this claim on the ground that by i of his wife, but with the understanding and promise

MR. GREEN AND MAYOR COOPER.

consultation with Mayor Cooper, and as he walked out of the latter's office he looked burriedly around